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SAVANNAH MAN SENTENCED TO 21 YEARS
ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CONVICTION

SAVANNAH: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that **DONALD LEE UBELE** was sentenced on May 17, 2006, in U.S. District Court in Savannah by Chief U.S. District Judge William T. Moore, Jr., to 21 years, in federal prison. Ubele had been convicted by a federal court jury on February 8, 2006, of possession of firearms by a convicted felon (as an armed career criminal), and possession of an illegal machine-gun. There is no parole from a federal sentence.

Wood stated that the armed career criminal statute provides for enhanced sentencing of felons in possession of firearms who have previously been convicted on three or more occasions of crimes of violence or drug trafficking.

This case was prosecuted under Project Ceasefire, this district's initiative to combat gun violence by prosecuting federal firearms offenses throughout the Southern District of Georgia. The case resulted from a large-scale joint investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Chatham County Counter-Narcotics Team of drug and firearms offenses in the Ogeechee Farms area of Chatham County. Acting on a tip from an ATF informant, ATF agents

seized over 30 firearms, including the machine-gun, from two gun safes which Ubele had secreted at the home of a former girlfriend's parents.

Wood praised the agents for their investigative efforts. The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Darrin L. McCullough.

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